



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

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GOOD BY, REFERENDUM

Immediate Municipal Ownership Cranks Dazed Over Giant Merger Sub-railway Scheme.

Tremendous Plans Now Being Perfected for New and Vast Street Railway System

Have Set the Ideas of the Agitators Agog and Sent Their Hopes Aglimmering.

Their Puny Pettifogging About City Ownership and Operation Is Now but Laughing Stock.

All Talk of an Independent Mayoralty Candidate on That Issue Scouted as Ridiculous.

In the lightning-like rapidity with which events and developments in the traction question have followed each other within the last three weeks, one of the most interesting conditions thereby produced is the predicament in which the advocates of immediate municipal ownership of the street railways find themselves.

These individuals, it is no exaggeration to say, have had the ground completely cut from under their feet without their knowing it. Their breath has been fairly taken away, and they stand dazed and dumfounded in view of a movement in the line of public progress and municipal improvement so colossal, that its full import can hardly yet be realized by any of us.

Gigantic schemes for the acquiring of underground Chicago, with its vast and manifold interests. The merging of all existing street car properties, franchises and values. The creation of a vast downtown subway that will revolutionize conditions of traffic and commerce in this city, and that may settle as mere collateral incidents such problems as the lowering of the river tunnels and incidentally the lake traffic of Chicago. Plans that must, if carried out, change the whole aspect of the thoroughfares of the second greatest city of the United States, and produce conditions that none of us ever dreamed of, and the proposition to expend untold millions of capital in the performance of all this have combined to completely squelch the puny putings of the agitators for immediate municipal ownership.

Almost with the rapidity of a magician's wand, the developments of the last few days have taken the forces back of the agitation for immediate municipal ownership out of the serious position which they had begun to occupy in the public view, and placed them in a ridiculous, if not grotesque, light.

Many men of standing and influence in public life had begun to regard the immediate municipal ownership element as a factor which must in future be reckoned with. Particularly was it expected to cut a wide swath in the coming spring election.

In view of recent events nobly, not even the leaders of the agitation itself, now takes the municipal ownership movement seriously. Thus once again we see how even "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee."

When one reads of the incorporation of the Chicago Subway Company, with a capital of \$50,000,000, backed by every railway entering Chicago; when plans loom up in conjunction therewith, which contemplate, among other things, an increase in the quickness of mail delivery, rapid handling of city express matter, removal of heavy cartage from the thoroughfares, release of valuable downtown property heretofore occupied by trackage and freight yards, subways and conduits for all pipes and wires, handling and transference of all heavy freight traffic through underground tunnels, and in the same connection of a pooling of issues, for the merger and underground handling of all downtown street car traffic, between such giants of finance as Marshall Field, John J.

Mitchell and J. Pierpont Morgan, one cannot help, when one thinks of the municipal ownership agitation, but smile over the fact that failed.

Meantime the titanic plans for the future should not make us oblivious to the necessities of the present. As the schemes for great underground works and enterprises grow and multiply in size and scope, the need of handling downtown traffic by temporary provision increases. Trolley loop permits should be granted the Union Traction Company whenever needed for this purpose.

Mayor Harrison's firm and reasonable attitude on the traction question at last bids fair to produce its settlement on a magnificent scale.

The looting of the water fund may be a good thing for the payroll brigade, but it looks very different to the taxpayers.

Municipal ownership of a hundred million dollars' worth or so of franchise and property rights is too big a quid for even the wildest faddist to dream of biting off.

Most thinking citizens now agree that all talk about an immediate municipal ownership candidate for Mayor next spring may be set aside as idle.

Before the water fund should be spent for any other purpose the dwellers in second-story flats in the North, Northwest and Southwest parts of the city should be supplied with water.

Robbing Peter to pay Paul is poor municipal policy.

That was a "face" the Mayor gave little Alling when he asked the latter if he intended incorporating in his proposed charter law draft any of his old plans like offering rewards for killing highwaymen.

The only thing Mayor Harrison has declined in connection with the next mayoralty campaign is to discuss it.

So the citizens' street cleaning bureau has a claim of over \$10,000 against the city which it ostentatiously undertook to do in ideal style at its own expense. The finance committee should throw this claim out.

Chicago in all her marvelous history never had greater need for a reliable man in the Mayor's chair than during the next two years.

Hon. Charles J. Vopicka made the best run of any of the Democratic candidates for Congress in Chicago. He was carried under by the tidal wave and by nothing else. His oppo-



JOHN J. MITCHELL,

The Chicago Banker, Who is at the Head of the Great Chicago Subway Scheme.

ment was not his equal in qualifications for the office in any way at all, and the people of the whole city regret the defeat of Mr. Vopicka as a distinct loss to the city's interests.

Chicago needs a fire department.

There were sixty thousand first voters of Illinois in the last campaign. Everyone of them voted for Roosevelt.

Many lawyers who have been busily engaged in bribing juries for corporations in the upper courts are now demanding the abolition of the justice courts.

Repeat the ordinance permitting hunting inside the city limits.

Whether the street railway companies are merged some time in the future or not, the present comfort and convenience of the public should be provided for. Pass the City Railway ordinance.

Whatever may be done by the special Council committee appointed to consider all phases of the telephone question, the general truth cannot be denied that under the management of President Arthur Wheeler and General Manager A. S. Hibbard the Chicago Telephone Company is giving excellent service to the public.

Since the boundaries of the Drainage District have been widened to take in all Chicago and Evanston, it has become overwhelmingly Republican. The esteemed Tribune, by the way, is now strongly opposed to the non-partisan Drainage Board idea.

Almost every Chicago fire is a total loss.

Physicians on the County Hospital staff have made a strong protest against the proposed civil service examination for aspirants to that body. They say it unfairly planned. Isn't it about time to investigate this county civil service business, anyway?

Has the much-tooted high pressure water system, like every other proposed improvement of the antiquated fire department, been allowed to fall into innocuous desuetude?

Fudgy Farson, the spokesman of the "Auto" nuisance, says they ought to put lawyers, not politicians, on the

park boards. He ought to put an air brake on his mouth.

The Grangers' Union will be strongly represented on the new charter commission.

It will be interesting to note the argument by which Senator Joe Hans will support in the Legislature his bill for changing the method of voting for Sanitary Trustees. Of course the re-districting of the Sanitary District will have no place in it.

Too much bickering and petty jealousy in the fire department.

"Nobody but a fool would say there was nothing that could make me change my mind as to a renomination," says Mayor Harrison. And Mayor Harrison is no fool.

Hon. B. A. Eckhart is one of the strongest and most popular citizens mentioned for the Republican nomination for Mayor.

Little Charley Alling ought to write the new charter himself.

Hon. James H. Eckels has brought to the discharge of his duties as receiver for the Union Traction Company those splendid business qualities which have made him famous.

Look out for another big fire.

Is it better that the taxepaters should go without turkey or the taxpayers without water?

Stand by Mayor Harrison on the traction question.

The Eagle's scoop on Harlan's candidacy seems to have stirred the animals up considerably.

The charter commission will earn the thanks of the people if it abolishes the Aldermen.

Abolish everything that there is no graft in and increase everything that has graft attached to it. Is the cry of the charter gang.

Chairman Roy O. West of the Republican State Central Committee gave out some interesting figures at the general round-up held under the auspices of that body the other day.

These figures showed among other things that the vote for McKinley in Illinois in 1900 was 597,985, as compared with 630,239 cast for Roosevelt this year, a Republican gain of 32,254. This should furnish some food for thought to the leaders of all branches of the Democracy of this State.

The Jefferson Club of Chicago has been launched. The Board of Directors consists of Clarence S. Darrow, Judge E. F. Dunne, John R. Gregg, H. B. Eagle and William Prentiss.

It is reported that Governor-elect Deneen will take a hand in the selection of the Speaker of the next House of Representatives. This is reassuring, for Mr. Deneen's influence is always used in the best interests of the people.

Now that voting machines have been held to be both constitutional and practicable, it is to be hoped no time will be lost in putting them into operation.

The fire department lacks discipline.

The West Park system needs a new secretary.

For twenty years Chicago led the fire departments of the world. Now she tails the list.

Every dead beat on the new charter committee—and there are many of them—wants the justice courts abolished.

Gov. Deneen will see that West Park bills are promptly paid.

Grant the trolley loops and accommodate the people.

West Park creditors who have been kept out of their bills for over two years want a change.

After the water grab, the deluge of municipal misery.

The great subway scheme will do away with the teaming nuisance.

DUNNE DECLINES IT.

Jurist Tells His Friends that Under No Circumstances Will He Run for Mayor.

Has Too High an Appreciation of the Honor Done Him Recently by the People

In Re-electing Him to the Bench—Will Continue His Active Interest in Public Affairs.

There Is No Lack, However, of Available Candidates in the Democratic Ranks at Present.

Mayor Harrison by No Means Out of the Race—His Latest Significant Utterances.

Judge Edward F. Dunne declines to be a candidate for Mayor next spring.

The distinguished jurist, whose name for several days past has been so prominently mentioned in connection with the Democratic nomination for this office, has told his closest friends that under no circumstances would he be a candidate or permit his name to go before the convention.

There is no doubt that Judge Dunne was the first choice of a large section of the party, but it was by no means certain that he could have the Democratic nomination, for there are other Richmonds in the field, several of whom have as large and influential a following in the party as he.

Judge Dunne was aware of all this, but even if he had the positive assurance of the nomination he would not, he assured his friends, accept it.

Judge Dunne is quoted as saying that he considered the judicial office as being as high and honorable as that of Mayor, and that he had too high an opinion of the trust the people had reposed in him to exchange it now for that of another office. The people, he claimed, had indorsed his record on the bench by recently re-electing him to this position for six years more, and he proposed to show his appreciation of that honor by devoting himself to the discharge of the duties of the office of Judge of the Circuit Court, in such a manner as to deserve a continuation of the confidence of the public.

This decision on the part of Judge Dunne is not to be taken as an indication that he has lost any of his keen interest in public, and particularly municipal, affairs. He proposes to take as active an interest in these matters as he ever has and as becomes a good citizen. A life-long resident of Chicago, all of whose interests are here and bound up in the city's welfare, he will continue to be a force in public affairs, as well as in the affairs of the Democratic party. These things the Judge has impressed upon his friends, assuring them that whether it be in questions of party policy or in such matters as municipal ownership, the new charter, or the other hundred and one things that go to make the future of Chicago, he will be found an earnest and an active factor.

While Judge Dunne's decision not to be a candidate has not before been made public, it is known on the best of authority to be irrevocable, and while it has caused considerable disappointment to his personal and close political friends the latter recognize it as a wise conclusion.

A chance of election to an office with a two-year term and a salary of \$10,000 is a poor inducement to resign an assured term of five years at the same salary, and carrying with it just as much dignity and honor.

Mayor Harrison, on his return from his hunting trip made it plain that those who had been claiming he was entirely out of the running as a possible candidate next spring were not exactly posted in the matter. The Mayor in the various interviews which he has given out on the subject since his return has not only made it clear that his being a candidate for re-election is a possible contingency, but that under certain circumstances it would be a probable one. While the Mayor stated

that Chairman Carey and Secretary Laflitt were justified in saying that his honor is not "at present" a candidate in any sense of the word, Mr. Harrison says: "As to declining in the spring—well, I shall decide that question then. There is plenty of time in the future to discuss it and I must decline to say anything on the subject now."

Charles S. Deneen's boom for the Republican nomination for President in 1908 has already been started. It may be rather early, but then its promoters no doubt have in mind the adage about the early bird.

Pity the woes of a poor old city merit system. The last black eye administered to that frayed-out institution has come through a decision given by Judge McEwen ordering the reinstatement with back pay of Officer M. Condel, who had been discharged by the commission and separated from the force.

The new charter should arrange for a general change in the rules governing the fire department. They need overhauling sadly.

The Marquette Club has been for years a mascot in starting presidential booms. Congressman Bouteille ably launched the last one in eloquent and forceful style.

For one thing, the business end of the fire department, that is to say, the purchase of material, supplies, real estate, horses, feed and other matters of a shabby purely business nature, should be handled by a separate department entirely, with a head of its own absolutely independent of the chief, who should not be hampered with such matters.

In criticizing the direct primary proposition County Judge Orrin N. Carter remarked that one of the evils it would surely work would be to transfer the power from the politicians to the newspapers. There is much food for thought in this somewhat surprising statement of Judge Carter.

Mayor Harrison has returned from his hunting trip without very much spoil, but he got back in time to give both barrels to the story that under no circumstances will he be a candidate for re-election.

Building Commissioner Williams is engaged in investigating just how far the fire drill ordinance for the public schools is being complied with. The fire drill may be all very well in its way, but plenty of exits and fire escapes would be better still.

Charges have been made that trickery, misrepresentation of the facts and suppression of official figures were used to secure Council approval of the plan to divert the water fund from its legitimate purposes. Instead of a surplus it would seem there is at present a shortage of revenue in the water department, but whether there be a surplus or a shortage it is illegal and an outrage, under all the circumstances, to attempt to divert the money